

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information delivery system, comprising an information delivery device which delivers information, an information storage and playback device which stores information transmitted from the information delivery device and reproduces the information if  
5 necessary, and an information communicating means which is connected to the information delivery device and the information storage and playback device, wherein:

the information storage and playback device includes means of storing each of a plurality of partial information of a plurality of delivery  
10 information beforehand, choosing one of the partial information from the plurality of the stored partial information and reproducing the chosen partial information, and giving notice of information that the one of the partial information has been chosen from the plurality of the delivery information to the information delivery device just as reproduction of the  
15 chosen partial information starts;

the information delivery device includes a means of transmitting remaining information of the partial information, which has been chosen to be reproduced and has been notified by the information storage and playback device, to the information storage and playback  
20 device just as reproduction of the partial information of the plurality of the delivery information finishes at the information storage and playback device; and

the information storage and playback device includes a means of reproducing the remaining information of the partial information  
25 transmitted from the information delivery device.

2. An information delivery system, comprising an information delivery device which delivers information, an information storage and playback device which stores information transmitted from

the information delivery device and reproduces the information if  
5 necessary, and an information communicating means which is connected  
to the information delivery device and the information storage and  
playback device, wherein:

the information storage and playback device includes means of  
storing each of a plurality of partial information of a plurality of delivery  
10 information beforehand, choosing one of the partial information from the  
plurality of the stored partial information and reproducing the chosen  
partial information, and giving notice of information that the one of the  
partial information has been chosen from the plurality of the delivery  
information to the information delivery device just as reproduction of the  
15 chosen partial information starts;

the information delivery device includes a means of  
transmitting remaining information of the partial information which has  
been chosen to be reproduced at the information storage and playback  
device to the information storage and playback device while the  
20 information storage and playback device is reproducing the partial  
information; and

the information storage and playback device includes means of  
storing the remaining information of the partial information which has  
been chosen to be reproduced at the information storage and delivery  
25 device, and reproducing the stored remaining information of the partial  
information which has been chosen to be reproduced at the information  
storage and playback device just as reproduction of the partial  
information finishes.

3. The information delivery system as claimed in claim 1,  
wherein a means for storing the partial information of the delivery  
information in the information storage and playback device beforehand is  
installed by:

connecting a storage medium, in which the partial information of the delivery information is set up by the information delivery device beforehand, to the information storage and playback device, or transmitting the partial information of the delivery information which is set up by the information delivery device beforehand from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information in a storage medium by the information storage and playback device;

transmitting partial information of delivery information, which belongs to an information group chosen to be delivered by the information storage and playback device beforehand, from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information which belongs to the information group in a storage medium by the information storage and playback device;

transmitting partial information of delivery information, which belongs to one of information groups prioritized and sorted out according to a past record of a user of the information storage and playback device, from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information, which belongs to one of the information groups prioritized and sorted out according to the past record of the user of the information storage and playback device, in a storage medium by the information storage and playback device; or

transmitting partial information of delivery information, which belongs to one of information groups prioritized and sorted out according to past records of a plurality of users of the information storage and

35 playback devices, from the information delivery device to the information  
storage and playback device through the information communicating  
means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery  
information, which belongs to one of the information groups prioritized  
and sorted out according to the past records of the plurality of the users  
40 of the information storage and playback devices, in a storage medium by  
the information storage and playback device.

4. The information delivery system as claimed in claim 2,  
wherein a means for storing the partial information of the delivery  
information in the information storage and playback device beforehand is  
installed by:

5 connecting a storage medium, in which the partial information  
of the delivery information is set up by the information delivery device  
beforehand, to the information storage and playback device, or  
transmitting the partial information of the delivery information which is  
set up by the information delivery device beforehand from the  
10 information delivery device to the information storage and playback  
device through the information communicating means and storing the  
transmitted partial information of the delivery information in a storage  
medium by the information storage and playback device;

transmitting partial information of delivery information, which  
15 belongs to an information group chosen to be delivered by the  
information storage and playback device beforehand, from the  
information delivery device to the information storage and playback  
device through the information communicating means, and storing the  
transmitted partial information of the delivery information which  
20 belongs to the information group in a storage medium by the information  
storage and playback device;

transmitting partial information of delivery information, which

belongs to one of information groups prioritized and sorted out according to a past record of a user of the information storage and playback device, from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information, which belongs to one of the information groups prioritized and sorted out according to the past record of the user of the information storage and playback device, in a storage medium by the information storage and playback device; or

transmitting partial information of delivery information, which belongs to one of information groups prioritized and sorted out according to past records of a plurality of users of the information storage and playback devices, from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information, which belongs to one of the information groups prioritized and sorted out according to the past records of the plurality of the users of the information storage and playback devices, in a storage medium by the information storage and playback device.

5. The information delivery system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

the partial information of the delivery information, which is transmitted from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means and is received and stored in the information storage and playback device, is renewed if necessary; and

a means for storing the partial information of the delivery information in the information storage and playback device beforehand is installed by:

connecting a storage medium, in which the partial information of the delivery information is set up by the information delivery device beforehand, to the information storage and playback device, or transmitting the partial information of the delivery information which is set up by the information delivery device beforehand from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information in a storage medium by the information storage and playback device;

transmitting partial information of delivery information, which belongs to an information group chosen to be delivered by the information storage and playback device beforehand, from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information which belongs to the information group in a storage medium by the information storage and playback device;

transmitting partial information of delivery information, which belongs to one of information groups prioritized and sorted out according to a past record of a user of the information storage and playback device, from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information, which belongs to one of the information groups prioritized and sorted out according to the past record of the user of the information storage and playback device, in a storage medium by the information storage and playback device; or

transmitting partial information of delivery information, which belongs to one of information groups prioritized and sorted out according to past records of a plurality of users of the information storage and

playback devices, from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information, which belongs to one of the information groups prioritized  
45 and sorted out according to the past records of the plurality of the users of the information storage and playback devices, in a storage medium by the information storage and playback device.

6. The information delivery system as claimed in claim 2, wherein:

the partial information of the delivery information, which is transmitted from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means and is received and stored in the information storage and playback device, is renewed if necessary; and  
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a means for storing the partial information of the delivery information in the information storage and playback device beforehand is installed by:  
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connecting a storage medium, in which the partial information of the delivery information is set up by the information delivery device beforehand, to the information storage and playback device, or transmitting the partial information of the delivery information which is set up by the information delivery device beforehand from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information in a storage medium by the information storage and playback device;  
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transmitting partial information of delivery information, which belongs to an information group chosen to be delivered by the information storage and playback device beforehand, from the  
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information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information which belongs to the information group in a storage medium by the information storage and playback device;

transmitting partial information of delivery information, which belongs to one of information groups prioritized and sorted out according to a past record of a user of the information storage and playback device, from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information, which belongs to one of the information groups prioritized and sorted out according to the past record of the user of the information storage and playback device, in a storage medium by the information storage and playback device; or

transmitting partial information of delivery information, which belongs to one of information groups prioritized and sorted out according to past records of a plurality of users of the information storage and playback devices, from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information, which belongs to one of the information groups prioritized and sorted out according to the past records of the plurality of the users of the information storage and playback devices, in a storage medium by the information storage and playback device.

7. The information delivery device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information storage and playback device, which includes a plurality of storage mediums for storing information, stores the partial information of the delivery information in a primary storage medium,



5 and stores the partial information of the delivery information and remaining information of the delivery information transmitted from the information delivery device in one of the other storage mediums different from the primary storage medium.

8. The information delivery device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the information storage and playback device, which includes a plurality of storage mediums for storing information, stores the partial information of the delivery information in a primary storage medium,  
5 and stores the partial information of the delivery information and remaining information of the delivery information transmitted from the information delivery device in one of the other storage mediums different from the primary storage medium.

9. The information delivery device as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

the information storage and playback device, which includes a plurality of storage mediums for storing information, stores the partial  
5 information of the delivery information in a primary storage medium, and stores the partial information of the delivery information and remaining information of the delivery information transmitted from the information delivery device in one of the other storage mediums different from the primary storage medium; and

10 the information delivery system employs at least one selected from a removable disk, an optical disk, a phase change optical disk, and a tape medium as a storage medium different from the primal storage medium.

10. The information delivery device as claimed in claim 2, wherein:

the information storage and playback device, which includes a plurality of storage mediums for storing information, stores the partial information of the delivery information in a primary storage medium, and stores the partial information of the delivery information and remaining information of the delivery information transmitted from the information delivery device in one of the other storage mediums different from the primary storage medium; and

the information delivery system employs at least one selected from a removable disk, an optical disk, a phase change optical disk, and a tape medium as a storage medium different from the primal storage medium.

11. The information delivery system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information communicating means includes at least one selected from a communicating means by electric wave, a communicating means by electric wave going through a satellite, a communicating means by a public phone line, and a communicating means by the Internet.

12. The information delivery system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the information communicating means includes at least one selected from a communicating means by electric wave, a communicating means by electric wave going through a satellite, a communicating means by a public phone line, and a communicating means by the Internet.

13. The information delivery system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the delivery information includes image information, moving picture information, or voice information.

14. The information delivery system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the delivery information includes image information, moving picture information, or voice information.

15. The information delivery system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

the delivery information includes image information, moving picture information, or voice information; and

5 the delivery information includes compressed data information.

16. The information delivery system as claimed in claim 2, wherein:

the delivery information includes image information, moving picture information, or voice information; and

5 the delivery information includes compressed data information.

17. A method for delivering information, in an information delivery system comprising an information delivery device which delivers information, an information storage and playback device which stores information transmitted from the information delivery device and  
5 reproduces the information if necessary, and an information communicating means which is connected to the information delivery device and the information storage and playback device, including steps of:

10 storing each of a plurality of partial information of a plurality of delivery information beforehand in the information storage and playback device;

choosing one of the partial information from the plurality of



information to the information delivery device just as reproduction of the chosen partial information starts;

transmitting remaining information of the partial information  
20 which has been chosen to be reproduced at the information storage and playback device to the information storage and playback device and storing the remaining information of the partial information which has been chosen to be reproduced at the information storage and delivery device while the information storage and playback device is reproducing  
25 the partial information; and

reproducing the stored remaining information of the partial information which has been chosen to be reproduced at the information storage and playback device just as reproduction of the partial information finishes.

19. The method for delivering information as claimed in claim 17, wherein the step of storing the partial information of the delivery information in the information storage and playback device beforehand includes a step of:

5 connecting a storage medium, in which the partial information of the delivery information is set up by the information delivery device beforehand, to the information storage and playback device, or transmitting the partial information of the delivery information which is set up by the information delivery device beforehand from the  
10 information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means and storing the transmitted part of the information of the delivery information in the information storage and playback device;

transmitting the partial information of the delivery  
15 information, which belongs to an information group chosen to be delivered by the information storage and playback device beforehand,

from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information which belongs to the information group in the information storage and playback device;

transmitting partial information of delivery information, which belongs to one of information groups prioritized and sorted out according to a past record of a user of the information storage and playback device, from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information, which belongs to one of the information groups prioritized and sorted out according to the past record of the user of the information storage and playback device, in the information storage and playback device; or

transmitting partial information of delivery information, which belongs to one of information groups prioritized and sorted out according to past records of a plurality of users of the information storage and playback devices, from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information, which belongs to one of the information groups prioritized and sorted out according to the past records of the users of the information storage and playback devices, in the information storage and playback device.

20. The method for delivering information as claimed in claim 18, wherein the step of storing the partial information of the delivery information in the information storage and playback device beforehand includes a step of:

connecting a storage medium, in which the partial information

of the delivery information is set up by the information delivery device beforehand, to the information storage and playback device, or transmitting the partial information of the delivery information which is set up by the information delivery device beforehand from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means and storing the transmitted part of the information of the delivery information in the information storage and playback device;

transmitting the partial information of the delivery information, which belongs to an information group chosen to be delivered by the information storage and playback device beforehand, from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information which belongs to the information group in the information storage and playback device;

transmitting partial information of delivery information, which belongs to one of information groups prioritized and sorted out according to a past record of a user of the information storage and playback device, from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information, which belongs to one of the information groups prioritized and sorted out according to the past record of the user of the information storage and playback device, in the information storage and playback device; or

transmitting partial information of delivery information, which belongs to one of information groups prioritized and sorted out according to past records of a plurality of users of the information storage and playback devices, from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating

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means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information, which belongs to one of the information groups prioritized and sorted out according to the past records of the users of the information storage and playback devices, in the information storage and playback device.

21. The method for delivering information as claimed in claim 17, wherein:

the partial information of the delivery information, which is transmitted from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means and is received and stored in the information storage and playback device, is renewed if necessary; and

the step of storing the partial information of the delivery information in the information storage and playback device beforehand includes a step of:

connecting a storage medium, in which the partial information of the delivery information is set up by the information delivery device beforehand, to the information storage and playback device, or transmitting the partial information of the delivery information which is set up by the information delivery device beforehand from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means and storing the transmitted part of the information of the delivery information in the information storage and playback device;

transmitting the partial information of the delivery information, which belongs to an information group chosen to be delivered by the information storage and playback device beforehand, from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and



25 storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information which belongs to the information group in the information storage and playback device;

transmitting partial information of delivery information, which belongs to one of information groups prioritized and sorted out according to a past record of a user of the information storage and playback device, from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information, which belongs to one of the information groups prioritized and sorted out according to the past record of the user of the information storage and playback device, in the information storage and playback device; or

transmitting partial information of delivery information, which belongs to one of information groups prioritized and sorted out according to past records of a plurality of users of the information storage and playback devices, from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information, which belongs to one of the information groups prioritized and sorted out according to the past records of the users of the information storage and playback devices, in the information storage and playback device.

22. The method for delivering information as claimed in claim 18, wherein:

the partial information of the delivery information, which is transmitted from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means and is received and stored in the information storage and playback device, is renewed if necessary; and

the step of storing the partial information of the delivery information in the information storage and playback device beforehand includes a step of:

connecting a storage medium, in which the partial information of the delivery information is set up by the information delivery device beforehand, to the information storage and playback device, or transmitting the partial information of the delivery information which is set up by the information delivery device beforehand from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means and storing the transmitted part of the information of the delivery information in the information storage and playback device;

transmitting the partial information of the delivery information, which belongs to an information group chosen to be delivered by the information storage and playback device beforehand, from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information which belongs to the information group in the information storage and playback device;

transmitting partial information of delivery information, which belongs to one of information groups prioritized and sorted out according to a past record of a user of the information storage and playback device, from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information, which belongs to one of the information groups prioritized and sorted out according to the past record of the user of the information storage and playback device, in the information storage and playback device; or

transmitting partial information of delivery information, which

belongs to one of information groups prioritized and sorted out according to past records of a plurality of users of the information storage and playback devices, from the information delivery device to the information storage and playback device through the information communicating means, and storing the transmitted partial information of the delivery information, which belongs to one of the information groups prioritized and sorted out according to the past records of the users of the information storage and playback devices, in the information storage and playback device.

23. A method for accounting for delivery information employing the information delivery system claimed in claims 1 to 16, wherein an information user making use of the information storage and playback device receives image, reflection or voice information from the information delivery device through the information communicating means, and an information provider, who delivers the image, reflection or voice information to the information user by employing the information delivery device, accounts for use of the image, reflection or voice information by the information user.

24. The method for accounting in the information storage and playback device as claimed in claim 23, wherein timing of the accounting is chosen from timing:

in parallel with a start of reproducing partial information of delivery information;

after a prescribed period of time from a start of reproducing the partial information of the delivery information; or

after reproducing a prescribed amount of the partial information of the delivery information from a start of reproducing the partial information of the delivery information.

25. The method for accounting in the information storage and playback device as claimed in claim 23, wherein timing of the accounting is chosen from timing:

5 in parallel with a start of reproducing remaining information of delivery information;

after a prescribed period of time from a start of reproducing the remaining information of the delivery information; or

10 after reproducing a prescribed amount of the remaining information of the delivery information from a start of reproducing the remaining information of the delivery information.

26. The method for accounting in the information storage and playback device as claimed in claim 23, wherein timing of the accounting is chosen from timing:

5 in parallel with a finish of reproducing remaining information of delivery information; or

after a prescribed time of a finish of reproducing the remaining information of the delivery information.

27. The method for accounting in the information storage and playback device as claimed in claim 23, wherein timing of the accounting is chosen from timing:

5 in parallel with a start of transmitting remaining information of delivery information;

after a prescribed time of a start of transmitting the remaining information of the delivery information; or

10 after transmitting a prescribed amount of the remaining information of the delivery information from a start of transmitting the remaining information of the delivery information.